has been provided to Government of Gujarat to set up Bio-fertilizer by M/s. Gujarat State Co-operative Marketing Federation, M/s. Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Ltd. and M/s. Krishak Bharti Co-operative Ltd. ICAR has identified suitable strains of Rhizobium for different pulses and oilseeds Corp. Mother culture has been supplied to the production units under State Government/Private Sector Agencies.

Cultivation of plants restricted for export

3965. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the 56 plants which have been restricted for exports without production of Certificate of Cultivation as per Public Notice 47 (PN) 92—97, Ministry of Commerce with effect from 25th March, 1996, are being cultivated in a large scale in many States;

(b) whether any statistics had been collected by the Ministry about the area of cultivation and availability of the individual plants before recommending issue of the Notification; and

(c) if so, whether the above statistical information will be made available for the perusal of the Members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) The ban on export of 56 plant species and their parts and products has been imposed due to their declining status in the wild. However, if these plants are of cultivated origin, their export is permissible, subject to production of relevant documentation. Statistics about the cultivation and availability of these plants have not been collected by this Ministry, but it is hoped that this regulation will encourage their cultivation.

(c) Does not arise.

Announcement of purchase price of Wheat, Rice and other cereals

3966. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced the purchase price of wheat, rice and other cereals recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria/basis therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The per Qtl. Minimum Support Prices recently announced by Government are Rs. 380 for paddy (common), Rs. 395 for paddy (fine), Rs. 415 for paddy (superfine), Rs. 310 for coarse cereals (Jowar, bajra and ragi) and Rs. 320 for maize for the 1996-97 season. The Minimum Support Price announced earlier for wheat and barley by the Government is Rs. 380 per qtl. and Rs. 295 per qtl. respectively for the marketing season 1996-97.

(c) The Minimum Support Prices have been announced by taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices, the views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries and other relevant factors.

Inclusion of Farmers in Crop Insurance Scheme

3967. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to cover the farmers, other than the loanees, under the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to modify the